

Miracles that Follow the Plow

A.W. Tozer

I. Introduction. (Hosea 10:12)

A. God is speaking about fallow ground “from the country side.”

B. God is telling us to be humble and learn from the earth (which instructs us about heaven).

II. Two kinds of fields.

A. The fallow ground.

1. It is fertile soil that has been allowed to lie unplowed and unsowed for too long.

2. It was a safe, satisfied field, but the curse of barrenness lay upon it.

a. It offered no contribution to the world-no fruit.

B. The plowed ground.

1. Life happens here.

2. The Holy Spirit asks us to break up our fallow ground for new life.

III. Two kinds of life corresponding to the fields.

A. Christians who have become dormant church members. Those who go through the motions, but do not “let it bite.” Those who get comfortable with a little church. They are never bothered by anything spiritual. They are not bad enough to go to hell but not good enough to go to heaven.

B. The plowed ones. These are filled with contrition. If they are bothered by something, they are not settled until they get it right. Fruit always results from the state of heart where there is confession and spiritual discontent.

IV. Examples from history.

A. The Israelites had become used to Egypt.

1. Moses became a plow that broke up the indifferent people.

B. For four-hundred years God was silent and Israel again became hardened.

1. Teachers took over and expanded God’s law.

2. Christ came and plowed up the fallow ground.

C. The Church moved into the dark ages.

1. Luther plowed.
2. Wesley plowed.

V. Miracles follow the plow.

A. If you are satisfied then you are fruitless, barren, not growing, not ready for the Lord's coming, and not holy.

B. Christianity has become "Churchianity."

1. Christians can easily fall into the state of protecting themselves.
2. The individual must break up the fallow ground and become discontented.
 - a. This one becomes right with the Lord.
 - b. Wonderful life, joy, and nearness to God follows this.

VI. What the plow means.

- A. It means bringing out to the open and getting rid of secret habits that harden the soul.
- B. It means reconciliation between people that gets rid of the bad feelings in the heart.
- C. It means getting rid of fear to pray, to witness, and to obey Christ.

VII. Conclusion: break up your fallow ground.

Application questions.

1. In what ways do the two fields parallel two different kinds of Christians?

2. How has God broken up fallow ground in His people throughout history?

3. Is there a secret habit, enmity between a brother, or a fear to witness and pray that is keeping you from living a fruitful life? How can you break of the "fallow ground" of your spiritual life even now?
